MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., FEDERAL HOLIDAY COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CENSUS AND POPULATION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDREDTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H.R. 4443

A BILL TO MAKE PERMANENT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., FEDERAL HOLIDAY COMMISSION

AUGUST 2, 1988

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., FEDERAL HOLIDAY COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1988

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CENSUS AND POPULATION,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 9:33 a.m., in room 311, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. Mervyn M. Dymally (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN MERVYN M. DYMALLY

Mr. DYMALLY. Good morning. I am pleased to welcome our witnesses and the public to our hearing on H.R. 4443, a bill to make permanent the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission.

Today's hearing is in some ways a sad reminder that there is yet much to do in the area of civil rights. If Dr. King's vision had been achieved, there would be less of a need to have the Commission. The reality of the situation is that discrimination and inequality are still with us, exacerbated by eight years of a very insensitive administration.

A further reminder is the fact that six States still do not celebrate the holiday because some of their leaders do not wish to honor Dr. King.

The Holiday Commission has been exemplary in carrying out its mandate. The officers, members and staffs have worked tirelessly to encourage all States to recognize Dr. King's contributions and to educate Americans about his struggle to end all forms of oppression and exploitation.

The Commission's work has been funded totally by private donations. I think we are all aware of the hardships many organizations face because of the difficulty of fundraising. The Commission is, unfortunately, no stranger to hard times.

Today's hearing is particularly important because the Commission is presently slated to close its doors in April, 1989. Unless legislation is passed to extend the life of the Commission, it will have to stop its valuable work long before its task is completed. I hope that we can offer some relief to Mrs. King and the Commission members.

I am very pleased to welcome Senator Weicker. Senator, one of our witnesses is fogged in at LaGuardia and the other one is on the

way, but I think we might want to proceed with you so that you can go about the business in the "big" house.

STATEMENT OF HON. LOWELL WEICKER, JR., U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Senator WEICKER. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. It's a great honor for me to appear before you and your committee in support of H.R. 4443, a bill to make permanent the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission and to provide for its future funding. I do so because I, as you, share Dr. King's commitment to making ours a country as good as its Constitution, where freedom, equality and justice are not just first principles but also current practice.

Twenty-five years ago this month, Martin Luther King, Jr. stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. And when he spoke, it was on behalf of blacks, but also Hispanics, women, the elderly, and people with disabilities—every American whose life has been scarred by discrimination. Dr. King dared our Nation to make real the promises embedded in the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments and pay "life service" rather than "lip service" to the contention that we are all created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights, including "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Dr. King paid "life service" to these beliefs in a way none of us would have wished. Twenty years have passed now since the night when shocked Americans gathered in vigil and vowed that all Dr. King had done would not be in vain. And while oppression continues to obscure his vision of opportunity, the Congress has kept faith with that pledge in a number of important ways. These include the extension of the vital Voting Rights Act, the passage of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, several landmark laws protecting the rights of people with disabilities, the enactment of sanctions against apartheid, and the designation of Dr. King's birthday as a federal holiday.

Since the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Commission began functioning in the fall of 1984, it has played an essential role in honoring, celebrating and furthering Dr. King's work. The Commission's workload has increased with each holiday observance as more and more Americans—and people around the globe—have joined in paying tribute to Dr. King. This year alone, the Commission responded to 5,000 inquiries, assisted more than 135 State and local commissions, and distributed about 300,000 pamphlets and posters.

The Commission publishes a "Living the Dream" newsletter to keep people informed about the celebration of the holiday and related events throughout the year. It has developed "Living the Dream" pledge cards which 2 million Americans have signed affirming their commitment to freedom and equality.

Recognizing that actions often speak louder than words, the Commission also encourages communities and organizations to undertake heritage action projects aimed at alleviating social problems such as drug abuse, racism, homelessness, unemployment, and teen pregnancy.

With 44 States and over 100 countries now declaring an official holiday in honor of Dr. King, the Commission has more work than the meager resources it has been able to raise from the private sector can begin to support. For one thing, the Commission's temporary status has caused some potential donors to believe that it does not command widespread support in Congress or among the American people.

H.R. 4443 would not only give the Commission permanent status, but also provide it with an annual appropriation of $300,000 to continue its vital efforts on behalf of Dr. King's memory and all of our futures. It is a small sum, but a great responsibility which is at stake here, Mr. Chairman, and I hope and trust your subcommittee will move expeditiously on it.

You have my full support on anything I can do within the Senate. I think both you and I know that discrimination, prejudice, in differing forms comes to each new generation. We confront today in a different guise all the things that Dr. King confronted. To have a focal point around which we can direct the Nation's efforts to eliminate all discrimination among all peoples is terribly important. I know your commitment and, indeed, you have mine, and let's hope we have the President's signature on the law.

Mr. DYMALLY. Senator, you have a very crowded schedule in the Senate. What are the chances of passage if we get this out of the House this year?

Senator WEICKER. I think good. I don't see why a matter such as this, upon which I think there will be total agreement, cannot pass the Senate and be on the President's desk. You have my personal commitment to do my best to see that that happens.

Mr. DYMALLY. Do you think we have some work to do with our friend from North Carolina?

Senator WEICKER. Mr. Chairman, I have work to do every single day with "our friend" from North Carolina. So this is just one more task. But, indeed, this one is much more positive than those that I usually have to carry, so I enjoy doing it.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much, Senator, for coming.

Senator WEICKER. Thank you.

Mr. DYMALLY. Congressman Conyers, you may proceed.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. CONYERS. Thank you and good morning, Mr. Chairman.

You may appreciate some idea of the magnitude that I place on this legislation when I tell you that August 2 is election day in the State of Michigan. I have come in particularly to make it very clear, as you already know since you are a cosponsor of this legislation, how strongly we feel about this measure in the House of Representatives.

Mr. DYMALLY. Congressman, given the difficulty that you have in your district in the primary, and the strong opposition you have, I am surprised to see you here.

Mr. CONYERS. I know. I can understand the amazement that some Members would have that I would even take a small portion of the day of election out to join you here.

As you know, this measure started with myself in 1968, four days after Dr. King's assassination. For some 16 years the struggle for legislation took place, frequently as often in the cities and States around our Nation as it did in the House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate. When we had accomplished our goal and had a Martin Luther King holiday bill, of course, we were very sensitive to the fact that there was a necessity for a commission, a Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Commission, which we now have before you, H.R. 4443, which would make several modest changes.

One, it would change the way in which the terms of the members are selected; secondly, it would make the Commission to become permanent; and finally, it would afford the strikingly tiny sum of $300,000 for each fiscal year to accomplish the mission of the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Commission. So this measure becomes very important because it has now struggled along with the contributions of the private sector and concerned individuals, and public spirited organizations.

When we examine the work that needs to be done and measure it against what Dr. King's vision was, I think there can be little doubt that there is plenty of opportunity for very vigorous activity on the part of the Commission. I want to say that Correta Scott King deserves our accolades because she has done so much with this Commission, with so little money, and so much help and good will from those who have understood that the dream must be kept alive. And so the King Holiday and its Commission is important because it spearheads the drive to preserve the true meaning of Dr. King's message and the holiday that commemorates it. There are so many things that it can continue to do and do better with this very small annual sum that would be appropriated to it.

Dr. King, of course—and you remember him well—didn't ask to be remembered in this grand way that the Nation has chosen to honor him. He said that he didn't want to be remembered for his celebrity or his awards or his degrees; that he wanted to be remembered for leading a committed life. I think that it is, in a sense, the highest honor that America can confer upon its citizens, to have a birthday named after a citizen. Dr. King and George Washington, of course, are the only two people that have been so highly honored in this country.

For that reason, it seems inconsistent for us not to make the modest changes that I propose in the legislation before your committee today. It seems very important that we could at least finance the Commission to augment their individual resources that have led them to continue on vigorously. We're not here to say that for any reason we're going to slow down our activities in planning the observances for Dr. King, or that we're going to be demoralized by it. The whole life of King, the struggle for the bill, everything teaches us that we have to continue on, that we're going to make this holiday continue to be successful no matter what is required.

The one thing we do know is that holidays have a tendency in our country and in our society of becoming commercialized, becoming trivialized, or becoming instances for vacations and days off. No matter how much support and enthusiasm they begin with, this is always a problem which we have to be ever vigilant that we don't turn this great holiday into a commercial enterprise. That has not

happened yet, in my judgment, but I think the only way we can protect it from happening is to augment in this modest way the work and the resources of the Commission. So that I, with more than 50 of our colleagues, ask that your committee favorably move forward the legislation that is before you today.

Thank you very much.

[The statement of Hon. John Conyers follows:]

Statement of

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.

In Support of Extending the Martin Luther King
Federal Holiday Commission (H.R. 4443)

Mr. Chairman, members of the Subcommittee, thank you for holding hearings today on legislation I introduced as the logical conclusion of the Martin Luther King Holiday legislation I first introduced on April 8, 1968.

The legislation focuses on the critical facilitating mechanism for that holiday that finally passed the Congress in 1983 with overwhelming bipartisan support. Without the indefinite extension of the Martin Luther King Holiday Commission mandated in H.R. 4443, I do not believe that the holiday can function as I first, and Congress eventually, envisioned it.

Mr. Chairman, for us to understand the importance of the Holiday's celebration, we need to look first at the current state of race relations in America today.

Two decades after Dr. King inspired the Poor Peoples' march in Washington, black unemployment is over double the national average and nearly 38% of all blacks live in poverty. Hate crimes -- violence motivated by the kind of race hatred drove Bull Connors to set loose police dogs on civil rights protesters -- is increasing in every state across the country and has

shocked the country with incidents like Howard Beach, New York and the Ku Klux Klan marches in Forsythe County, Georgia.

Two decades after Congress enacted the Fair Housing Act of 1968, segregation continues, in some places worse than it ever was. Studies by news organizations and civil rights organizations show that discrimination in housing is practiced in every major city across the country.

The statistical indicators confirm what we all know in our hearts: that the gulf between black and white has not even begun to close; that racism is a continuing factor in American life; that there is a long road to travel before parity; and that the legal and democratic systems are the roads to take.

That is why the King holiday and its commission is so important. It will help remind us of the progress that the country has made, but also of the division it still experiences. It also tells us and our youth, that the way to address injustice and inequality, the way to make America more equal and promising, is to work within the system, to reform it through the democratic process. And in the era of unethical attorneys general, the importance of that is evident.

The Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Commission spearheads the drive to preserve the true meaning of Dr. King's message and the holiday that commemorates it. Commission efforts marking the

holiday address issues such as poverty, hunger, unemployment, racial hostility, apartheid in South Africa, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, alcoholism, adult illiteracy, child abuse, homelessness and voter registration. Each year the Commission brings together people of all races, cultures and political persuasions in confronting Dr. King's unfinished agenda.

But it is the success and track record of the commission that is the strongest argument for its continuation. When the Commission began its work in the fall of 1984, only 17 states and the District of Columbia observed Dr. King's birthday as a holiday. This year, however, all but 7 states and over 140 foreign countries have made his birthday an official holiday.

On the night before Dr. King was assassinated, he asked a crowd in Memphis to remember him neither for his celebrity nor for his countless awards, degrees and publications. He asked only that he be remembered for leading a committed life. That is what the commission does.

Last month, when I was in Atlanta for the Democratic National Convention, I had the chance to visit Dr. King's grave site. To the right of his marble tomb stands the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where on Sundays he delivered inspiring sermons to his congregation. To the left lies the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, which teaches contemporary applications of Dr. King's philosophy.

Across town, Dr. King's alma mater of Morehouse College has dedicated a statue in his honor, and engraved the base of the statue with his most immortal words and statements. I remember thinking how unfortunate it is that so few cities across the nation have taken similar steps to preserve the legacy of this brilliant civil rights leader, distinguished member of the clergy, and Nobel laureate. His vision of equal rights and opportunity for all people transformed this country and energized social justice movements around the globe. Selective memory of his achievements and commercialism should never replace what that movement represents.

When one considers what we appropriate annually for the country's problems, the appropriation requested in this bill is less than a drop in a vast ocean. But this small appropriation serves, each year, to elevate our spirits and give millions hope. And no matter how much we spend on prosecuting hate crime cases, or on programs to deal with employment and housing, I believe that we cannot ever fully end our problems unless we implement the credo that the holiday represents. The commission is the most modest and effective means of doing that.

Mr. DYMALLY. Mr. Conyers, I have two observations. One, it is our intention to send the bill to the full committee because we have a markup of several bills next Wednesday, so I anticipate this bill would be marked up next Wednesday. This means we wouldn't get to it on the floor until September.

Secondly, I was struck by the modest amount of money you have requested. Why didn't you go for half-a-mil?

Mr. CONYERS. I'm struck by it myself, Mr. Chairman. I am apologetic about it and would like to review this with Mrs. King. This was an amount we agreed upon some time ago when the bill first went in. But as you know, $300,000, just pushing it through the committee and the Congress, would consume almost that amount of money.

I think it is exceedingly modest and I would be open for any good faith review of the amount of money contained in——

Mr. DYMALLY. I would like to discuss that with you before next Wednesday so I can offer an appropriate amendment.

For one reason, when you listen to Senator Weicker and the amount of work the Commission did, I am amazed they were able to do that with volunteer help and just private donations. The work is voluminous and it is increasing in its educational output. So we need to talk about that before Wednesday.

Mr. CONYERS. I think, if it's appropriate, that we move on this part of our discussion as quickly as possible. I will be in constant touch with you on this matter.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much, indeed.

Mr. CONYERS. Thank you.

Mr. DYMALLY. Are you leaving for Detroit now?

Mr. CONYERS. Yes. I'm on a plane back that leaves at 10:45 for the First Congressional District of Michigan. I will be there tonight.

Incidentally, the National Urban League is also convened in our city and I will be participating with them as well.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much.

Congressman Regula.

STATEMENT OF HON. RALPH REGULA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO

Mr. REGULA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would ask unanimous consent that my full statement be made a part of the record.

Mr. DYMALLY. Without objection, and the same will apply to Mr. Conyers.

Mr. REGULA. With that, I will summarize because I know that you have a number of witnesses to hear from today. I think it's important that everyone be given an opportunity to present their point of view.

I serve on the Martin Luther King Commission. I was one of the original two Republican appointments from the House, appointed by Speaker O'Neill, and presently, at the request of Mrs. King, I am serving as vice-chairman.

The Commission has accomplished a great deal, given the fact that it had to operate totally without any financial support from the Congress. This arose out of the fact that in the original legisla-

tion one of the requirements to get it passed was that it not involve any cost. Since that time the Commission has worked in many different directions, but I think the future challenge is to institutionalize the holiday so that it becomes meaningful to all Americans. To give the holiday significance means reaching out to people, particularly young people, to make them aware of the impact that the life of Dr. King had on this Nation and on the development of our attitudes and the development of our social morays.

To accomplish this objective requires an intensive education program. I serve on the education committee of the Commission and much has been achieved through the efforts of many people. We have literature that has gone out. Many of the schools in the country are developing curricular programs around the life of Dr. Martin Luther King. I don't think we can begin to measure the impact that this will have on the future of our Nation. As young people better understand the objectives of his teachings, they in turn will be inspired to follow those patterns in their own lives and will in many instances I think give leadership to the ever-evolving society that we all cherish.

To do this means, of course, that the Commission needs to be extended beyond the termination date. There is much yet to be done in the education process. It also means that there needs to be some measure of financial support because it's expensive to print materials, it's expensive to have an outreach program to the schools of this Nation, and yet it's a very vital part of any real long-term success.

As our colleague, Congressman Conyers, pointed out, we want this day to be more than just a paid holiday, more than just a day to go to the beach, but a day where people reflect on the teachings of Dr. King and reflect in their own lives how they, too, can help to make change in their own way in each of the communities across this Nation.

That's an enormous challenge. I think the Commission has done extremely well in the years of its existence, given the obvious limited resources that have been available. This is because there have been many people willing to contribute both the time, talent and energy and, most importantly, commitment to achieving desirable changes, to bringing to the communities of our Nation the understanding of what Dr. King's life meant in each of our lives.

So I think it is important that this Commission be extended, that there be some measure of financial support, that we have the strong backing of the House and the Senate and the President. The President has been committed to these programs. If we can achieve those objectives, we will make for the long-term future the Federal holiday truly a significant part of the fabric of this Nation.

[The statement of Hon. Ralph Regula follows:]

TESTIMONY OF THE HONORABLE RALPH REGULA

BEFORE THE POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CENSUS AND POPULATION

AUGUST 2, 1988

THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FEDERAL HOLIDAY COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman and Members of this subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today regarding the continuation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. I appreciate your willingness to hold this hearing and give consideration to the commission's ongoing work.

As you will recall, the King Holiday Commission was established by the Congress in 1984 to encourage appropriate ceremonies for the first holiday commemorating the life of Dr. King. It has been extended twice since then, and is currently scheduled to expire again on April 20, 1989.

The commission is composed of people from the public and private sectors, including four Members each from the House and the Senate who are appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate.

I was appointed by Speaker O'Neill in 1984 as one of two Republicans from the House to serve on the Commission. I have remained a member of the Commission since then, and recently Mrs. Coretta Scott King, the Commission's Chairwoman, has asked me to serve as her Vice Chairman. I was installed during the Commission's June meeting. I am honored with this new responsibility, and I appear before you today as the Commission's Vice Chairman in support of legislation to extend the Commission's life.

An important role of the commission is to institutionalize the King holiday. The Commission hopes to fulfill this role by transforming the holiday into one which stands out, not as just another day off, but as one which drives people to follow in Dr. King's footsteps: to help a friend or a stranger in a time of need, to support changes in our society by bringing about equality and opportunity for every citizen, and to make these changes through nonviolent acts.

To accomplish these goals, the Commission has established working committees to bring various people and organizations into the effort to commemorate Dr. King's life. I serve as a Vice Chair on one of these committees: the Education Committee.

As a former educator myself, I am acutely aware of the important role that education plays in teaching of Dr. King's life and the philosophies he espoused. Our committee has been working to infuse this vital information into the education process. Next month, for example, the Committee is sponsoring a conference in Washington for teachers from across the country on how to incorporate the life and works of Dr. King into all levels of curricula. Incorporating these important historical and literary portions of Dr. King into the education of our young people is being accomplished, I am pleased to report. However, this task takes time, and much work lies ahead in this area for the Education Committee.

Our work on the Commission through such committees as the Education Committee is vital to continuing to share Dr. King's important message with our country and the world. Our Commission's accomplishments to date are impressive, Mr. Chairman. This past January, we implanted a time capsule on what is now called Freedom Plaza. It contains memorabilia of Dr. King, including a copy of his "I Have a Dream" speech. Before its implantation, the capsule travelled across the country to share its contents and symbol with students and others. The Commission has overseen the production of thousands of Freedom Trail Poster/Maps which provide a symbol of Dr. King's life and dream and have been distributed to thousands of individuals, businesses, labor unions and other organizations to inform people of Dr. King's message.

Although the Commission has been in existence for four years now, it needs additional time to promote this message and to assist in bringing it into our nation's educational system, as well as to the rest of the people of this country who are no longer students.

As with any major undertaking such as this one, Mr. Chairman, our task requires some funding. While the Commission has received no federal funding to date, I ask today that your Committee give consideration to the Commission's needs in this area.

As other members of the commission will testify today, the Commission's lack of any public funding has required it to spend its valuable time on fundraising, rather than actually getting out the message of Dr. King and his philosophies.

I ask your consideration of this request, and again, I appreciate your willingness to hold today's hearing.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much.

Congressman, given the fact that we have passed all of the appropriations bill, what is the vehicle by which you will get this money? Do you have any idea how we will do this?

Mr. REGULA. Well, it could be achieved if there were a commitment to it. It either could be part of this bill or it could be in the supplemental, or it could still be put in in the Senate because not all of the bills have been passed in the Senate. I think probably, if there were the possibility of an agreement, we could do it in conference, even though it might not be a conferencable item. So long as everybody is in agreement, it still could be accomplished in that way.

Mr. DYMALLY. So we still have some avenues by which we could——

Mr. REGULA. Wherever there's a will in the Congress to achieve something, there's a way.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much, indeed, Congressman.

Mr. REGULA. Thank you.

Mr. DYMALLY. We will proceed with our list of witnesses as they appear. I understand Mr. Pierce is on his way, so we will go on to Panel I with Mr. Hodges, Dr. Blitz, Mrs. Pajunen, and Mr. Williams.

If you don't mind, when Mr. Pierce arrives, I would like to hold up for a minute and take his testimony and then bring you back on.

Mr. HODGES. That's fine.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you. I might have a housing bill in the Congress some time, so I need to take care of the Secretary. [Laughter.]

Mr. Hodges, why don't we start with you.

STATEMENT OF CLARENCE E. HODGES, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Mr. HODGES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As I just sat reflecting, 20 years ago I was chairman and president of the Congress of Racial Equality for the greater metropolitan area of St. Louis, MO, and vice president for the NAACP for St. Louis County.

Mr. DYMALLY. Do you know Hank Hodge?

Mr. HODGES. Oh, yes.

Mr. DYMALLY. Of course. He's in San Diego. I saw him a couple of months ago.

Mr. HODGES. At that time Norman R. Seay, a distinguished American, saw fit to organize a committee to make the Martin Luther King birthday a holiday in the City of St. Louis. I served as vice chairman on that committee which led to St. Louis being one of the first major cities to make that great day a holiday.

In subsequent years and in other cities I have been able to work and to notice the difference in people and in citizens when the proper honor is bestowed upon our great leader, Dr. King, and what that has meant to young people, often replacing hopelessness with hope.

Today, as I come before you both as Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Martin Luther King Holiday Commission, and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, representing also the Secretary of State, it is a pleasure and an honor as we look to see what is about to be done with this great Commission, to not only extend it but to make it permanent.

Mr. Chairman, I am honored to publicly indicate at this august forum my personal support for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Commission as Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of said Commission, and indicate the support of the Honorable George P. Shultz, Secretary of State, who cannot be here today due to out of the country travels in Central America.

Secretary Shultz has a public service record which indicates his personal historical support for individual civil rights and international peace as promoted by Dr. King. The Department of State, with representation in nearly every country of the world, seeks through peaceful means the advancement of human rights and economic security for the citizens of the world.

We have seen much progress during the 20 years since the assassination of Dr. King. However, as we continue to look to the future, we see the need for more progress and a continued need for the King Holiday Commission.

Recent visits to such countries as Bangladesh, Dernmark, India, Indonesia, Senegal and Zimbabwe have helped me to see the international acceptance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a leader whose cause lives on and the need for the Commission as it relates to organizations and governments worldwide.

In the interest of peace, justice, and the broad advancement of human rights, I consider it a duty, a pleasure and honor, to support H.R. 4443. The end to racism must come. This bill, this Commission, will help hasten that day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The statement of Clarence E. Hodges follows:]

STATEMENT OF DR. CLARENCE E. HODGES, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, AND CHAIRMAN, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, I am honored to publicly indicate at this August forum my personal support for the Martin Lucher King, Jr. Holiday Commission as Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of said Commission, and the support of the Honorable George P. Shultz, Secretary of State, who cannot be here today due to out-of-the country travels in Central America.

Secretary Shultz has a public service record which indicates his personal historical support for individual civil rights and international peace as promoted by Dr. King. The Department of State with representation in nearly every country of the world seeks through peaceful means the advancement of human rights and economic security for the citizens of the world. We have seen much progress during the twenty years since the assassination of Dr. King. However, as we continue to look to the future, we see the need for more progress and a continued need for the King Holiday Commission.

My recent visits to such countries as Bangladesh, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Senegal, and Zimbabwe have helped me to see the international acceptance of Dr. Martin Luther King as a leader whose cause lives on and the need for the Commission as it relates to organizations and governments world-wide.

In the interest of peace, justice, and the broad advancement of human rights, I consider it a duty, pleasure, and honor, to support HR 4443.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much, Mr. Hodges.

If you don't mind, I would like to call the Secretary of Housing, the Honorable Sam Pierce, now, and then call the other panelists back.

Mr. Pierce, would you proceed?

STATEMENT OF HON. SAMUEL R. PIERCE, JR., SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. PIERCE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DYMALLY. We know of your busy schedule and we want to get your testimony so you can go back to work.

Mr. PIERCE. Okay. Looking out for the taxpayer.

Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure to appear before this committee to testify in support of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission and the extension of its congressional mandate.

Dr. King is justly remembered for his devotion to the ideals of freedom, peace and brotherhood. The memory of his life and work inspire the noble and honorable side of our nature—motivating us to build a better world, a universal community of equality and nonviolence.

It was a profound moment in the history of our great land when Martin's birthday was established as a national holiday. That designation acknowledges and exclaims the vital importance of his legacy to the history, as well as the future, of the United States of America.

We are a better country for accepting and furthering the ideals of Martin Luther King, Jr. The Federal Holiday Commission bearing his name is the appropriate and effective instrument to stimulate and foster our pursuit of those ideals.

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission was established to encourage appropriate ceremonies and activities and to advise and assist the public and private sectors in commemorating the holiday. That the Commission is fulfilling its mandate commendably is evidenced by the range and variety of observances conducted thus far. Its work with private citizens and public officials, corporate, civic and union officials, ministers, teachers, students, people from all walks of life, has made this holiday a living tribute of education and action in furtherance of Dr. King's ideals.

For the 1988 holiday alone, the Commission provided guidance and technical assistance to State, territorial and local holiday commissions, responded to thousands of inquiries, and distributed hundreds of thousands of holiday observance materials.

Here in the Nation's capital a time capsule in honor of Dr. King was implanted under the plaza at Pennsylvania Avenue. The capsule contains memorabilia of major events highlighting his works and will remain underground for 100 years, to be unearthed in 2088 as a historical link between Dr. King, his time and his ideals, and generations of Americans yet unborn.

These are but selected examples of the Commission's work in breathing life into this holiday. The influence of its leadership and coordination extends far beyond our shores as well:

In Senegal, the Association of Senegalese High School History Teachers conducted a series of lectures on the life and message of

Dr. King; young officers at the American embassy in Tunis conducted a discussion with students at the American cultural center; in Moscow, the U.S. embassy brought together Soviet officials and human rights activists to discuss human rights issues.

Indeed, activities commemorating the legacy of Dr. King were held at numerous sites throughout the world, from Spain to South Africa, from Japan to Belgium, from Pakistan to Barbados.

Observances have been held in classrooms and churches, in libraries and banquet halls, in statehouses and Federal buildings, on campuses and city streets, on Capitol Hill and in the White House. As the growth of activities and sites continues to spread, their very magnitude and diversity requires a guiding and coordinating hand. The Commission is the proper body to extend that hand.

In 1984, Congress renewed the American commitment to liberty and independence, to justice and equality, by honoring the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. This commemoration offers a compelling lesson in the contemporary significance of American history; for Martin revered the ideals and goals of our forefathers, and invested them with new meaning for the people of today.

Martin knew the lesson our founding fathers taught: out of unity comes strength. He knew that our ideals and aspirations weave the threads which unify us as a people, and that only as a unified people can we fulfill the promise of a better tomorrow.

"Sooner or later," Martin said, "all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace, and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood." The Commission is helping us to compose that psalm by nurturing the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., and I would urge that it be empowered to continue its good work.

That concludes my statement, Mr. Chairman. I will be happy to answer any questions you or other committee members may have.

Mr. DYMALLY. Mr. Secretary, we have been joined by Mrs. Morella of Maryland. Mrs. Morella, do you have any questions for the Secretary?

Mrs. MORELLA. Secretary Pierce, I have read your comments, but in hearing you articulate them very eloquently, the commitment also comes through in terms of the content. I am pleased to be a member of this committee to consider this important legislation to make permanent the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission.

I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman, that my remarks be included in the record.

Mr. DYMALLY. Without objection, so ordered.

[The statement of Hon. Constance A. Morella follows:]

STATEMENT OF HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

MR. CHAIRMAN, THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK FOR A FEW MOMENTS ON H.R. 4443. THIS BILL MAKES PERMANENT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FEDERAL HOLIDAY COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZES APPROPRIATIONS FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR. ADDITIONALLY, THE BILL STATES THAT PAYMENT OF EXPENSES FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF SALARY ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MARTIN LUTHER KING LEFT A LEGACY TO THIS NATION; A LEGACY FOR ALL PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF COLOR, RACE, ETHNICITY, AGE OR GENDER. HIS "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH GALVANIZED MILLIONS IN 1963. TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER THOSE WORDS STILL GIVE HOPE AND COMFORT TO MILLIONS.

I BELIEVE THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING'S DREAM MUST CONTINUE. HE TAUGHT THE LESSON OF LOVE, UNDERSTANDING AND THE POWER OF PERSUASION THROUGH THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. HE SAID, "WE MUST HAVE THE COURAGE TO REFUSE TO FIGHT BACK." "WE MUST USE THE WEAPON OF LOVE." HIS LIFE SHOWED US THAT WE MUST HAVE FAIR LAWS AND THAT EVERYONE IS AS GOOD AS THE OTHER.

HE SAID, " I HAVE SEEN THE PROMISED LAND. I MAY NOT GET THERE WITH YOU. BUT...WE AS A PEOPLE WILL GET TO THE PROMISED LAND." WE, THE PEOPLE ARE ALL AMERICANS.

THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY COMMISSION HAS BEEN GIVEN THE MONUMENTAL TASK TO FOCUS ON THOSE DREAMS; NOT JUST FOR ONE DAY EACH YEAR BUT EACH DAY EACH YEAR FOR, ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CAN LEARN FROM THE LESSONS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. TAUGHT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, IN ORDER FOR THE COMMISSION TO MEET THE PROVISIONS OF THEIR MANDATE, THERE MUST BE FUNDS. THE ORIGINAL LEGISLATION, IN 1984, PROVIDED THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONATIONS. HOWEVER, WE KNOW THAT THESE PRIVATE FUNDS ARE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN.

I SEE THAT WE HAVE ALMOST A DOZEN WITNESSES TODAY AND I AM EAGER TO HEAR WHAT EACH WILL SAY.

Mrs. MORELLA. I understand that prior to my arriving Mr. Dymally commented on the fact that there are six States that do not individually commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday. I'm pleased to say that Maryland is not among those six because we do have commemorations and they should, indeed, be continued.

We all know that this is a lesson to us, too, that a lot more has to be done in terms of civil rights in our country, and I think the King Holiday Commission has been exemplary in fulfilling its mandate. I would like to see it continue and I would like to listen to what the other witnesses are going to have to say about it.

I'm curious about whether or not you believe that there will be continued private funding if the Commission is made permanent, Mr. Secretary?

Mr. PIERCE. Yes, I think that private funding will continue, but I also believe that there should be funding from the government as well. I think there is a tremendous job for this Commission to do. Unfortunately, not enough is known yet by enough Americans about the work of Martin Luther King. It has to be disseminated more and it has to reach more people. Therefore, I think this Commission still has a tremendous job to do.

It has done a great job so far, but the job is not over yet.

Mrs. MORELLA. I would guess that you would believe, too, that if you make the Commission permanent, it might even enhance the permanency of private contributions?

Mr. PIERCE. I do. I believe the private sector will continue to work with the Commission and hopefully they will even increase what they have been doing in the past.

Mrs. MORELLA. I don't know whether this should be directed to you, Secretary Pierce, but are there any other holiday commissions that do have the government funding? Are you aware of any? Would this make it unique?

Mr. PIERCE. I really don't know, to tell the truth. I've been very closely associated with this Commission. As a matter of fact, it has space at HUD, and we also give it certain equipment and clerical personnel and so on.

Mrs. MORELLA. This is a big year, too, isn't it, the 25th anniversary of the civil rights march to Washington. Do you think that enhances contributions or makes the work of the Commission even more important, or the requirement that there be Federal funding for the Commission?

Mr. PIERCE. I think I made my position very clear. I think it's a job not just this year but a job that has to be done until such time as this Nation and its people know more about Martin Luther King. I don't think enough people really know. If you ask a young boy or girl under high school age about Martin Luther King, they may know the name but they know little about what he has done or why he is honored and so forth.

It's not like Washington, where they know he was the first President, founder of the country, and from the time somebody is in the first grade they are constantly taught about what he contributed to the country. It's an entirely different situation. I think, since Martin Luther King and Washington are the only American individuals to have national holidays, that certainly the people deserve

to know why Martin Luther King was selected and what he did for this Nation and for the people of the world.

Mrs. MORELLA. Martin Luther King is a symbol not only for the need for civil rights and what he accomplished and the manner in which he accomplished it, but also I think he's a symbol to all people that we cannot have injustices. So I think that is something that could be taught through the Commission.

Secretary Pierce, we appreciate your coming to testify, and I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having the meeting and recognizing me.

Mr. DYMALLY. Mrs. Morella, in response to your question, staff has informed me there are about ten commissions that are funded for different aspects of American history and events, one of which is a guy named Columbus.

Mrs. MORELLA. Thank you.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary, for your testimony. I am certain when the bill comes on the floor that your testimony here, along with the support of Secretary Shultz, will be very instrumental in its passage. So we thank you for taking time off from your very busy schedule to come here today.

Mr. PIERCE. Thank you very much.

Mr. DYMALLY. We will continue with our panel. Dr. Blitz, tell your Director that I was intent on getting on Worldnet—

Dr. BLITZ. Excellent.

Mr. DYMALLY. I mean, I didn't get on, but during the convention I was on with Mr. Bonior of Michigan and we were beamed to Greece, India, Nigeria, and Spain.

STATEMENT OF MARK BLITZ, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Dr. BLITZ. That's excellent, and we thank you for doing that for us. Indeed, in relation to this testimony today, Mrs. King has been on Worldnet I believe twice and it's been very effective for us in our mission as well.

I am pleased to be here this morning on behalf of Director Charles Z. Wick and the United States Information Agency. He is out of Washington today but he asked me to convey his strong endorsement for the continued support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission. Director Wick has been deeply honored to serve as a Commissioner.

The Commission, in our judgment, has achieved a great deal since it was established four years ago. The celebrations of Dr. King's birthday have been very significant both here and abroad. The U.S. Information Agency has been a strong supporter of the Commission's activities through our worldwide cultural and information programs. We draw upon the Commission as an important resource in carrying out these programs which demonstrate to important foreign audiences that the United States is a country based on equality, in which change is possible through peaceful and democratic means. The Commission should have continued funding in order to carry out its critical role of support, coordination, and dissemination of information about Dr. King and the Federal holiday which honors his achievements.

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The USIA has helped to extend the reach of the King Federal Holiday Commission through our U.S. Information Service installations abroad. These posts have carried out a wide variety of activities related to the holiday. For example, we have renamed our U.S. Information Service library in Ghana as "The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library", the naming of the library of the Haitian-American Institute in Port-au-Prince in honor of Dr. King, and dedicated a new U.S. Information Service program facility in Sao Paolo in Dr. King's honor.

In addition to this, we participated in ceremonies to rename streets in Jerusalem and in Calcutta after Dr. King. Along with the Jerusalem renaming, a special session of the Israeli Knesset was held in Dr. King's honor. And beyond this, we have organized seminars, exhibits, film shows, special ceremonies and other programs by U.S. missions and by host country officials and institutions in many nations in honor of Dr. King.

These events and others received excellent and, in many cases, extraordinary coverage in the foreign media. I cannot overemphasize how important it is that foreign countries see this side of the United States so that they understand that we are dedicated to the achievement of equal opportunity for all and to resolving our differences through peaceful, democratic means.

Our USIA Foreign Service Officers make every effort to counter false perceptions of the United States and to promote understanding between Americans and other peoples through carefully designed programs of information activities and through cultural and educational exchanges. The existence of the King Holiday Commission and the celebration of this holiday in the United States demonstrate that we, as a country, believe in the principles Dr. King defended.

In this, the United States, for all our limitations, still stands as a model worthy of emulation for peoples of many countries which discriminate against some of their citizens or which do not have sufficiently democratic institutions.

The U.S. Information Agency has shown our support for the work of the King Holiday Commission here in Washington as well. A USIA Foreign Service Officer was assigned on detail to the Commission to help work on international programs of celebration. We've provided meeting space for the Commission in our headquarters, and as I mentioned a minute ago, Mrs. Coretta Scott King has appeared on two Worldnet broadcasts which received a tremendous response from our posts and audiences abroad.

The Commission has made significant efforts in carrying out an active program with minimal private donations, but it is operating under a considerable fiscal deficit that private sector support has not yet been able to erase. A Federal appropriation of $300,000, a modest amount even in these tight budget times, would, in Director Wick's view, allow the Commission to devote its full attention to its Federal mandate rather than to a continual effort to raise funds.

We shouldn't allow the celebration of Dr. King's birthday to be at risk due to lack of funding. We should remember that our honoring of Dr. King brings us respect and admiration in the eyes of the world.

Thank you.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much.

In January I had the privilege of meeting with your Worldnet staffers in Ghana. I say to you that some of the neighboring countries are a little unhappy with you because they don't have Worldnet. So I have to tell my colleagues—you know who I'm talking about—that Worldnet is working as I travel around the globe following my friend, Mr. Solarz.

Dr. BLITZ. We're sure it's working and we would like to expand it to all of the countries which don't currently have it.

Mr. DYMALLY. Miss Pajunen.

STATEMENT OF CIRCE PAJUNEN, PRESIDENT, U.S. STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Mrs. PAJUNEN. Mr. Chair and members of the subcommittee, thank you for allowing me to speak before you today. My name is Circe Pajunen and I am the outgoing President of the United States Student Association and a member of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission.

I wish to express my appreciation to Representative Conyers for his introduction of H.R. 4443, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission Extension Act, and to all the cosponsors of this bill.

This bill is particularly important to the U.S. Student Association because of the population we represent. Our membership falls within the age group of 18 to 40 years, and that same age group in a recent survey overwhelmingly cited Dr. King as their hero. We have a great stake in the extension of the Commission's life. Though there are a number of reasons we believe the Commission is vital to our country, I will only outline the two most important in my testimony today.

First, the Commission serves to educate Americans about Dr. King, his teachings, and how one can best celebrate his life and work. I have served as a national officer for the U.S. Student Association for over a year-and-a-half and during my tenure have come to meet a great number of college students. One student recently told me, "We all learned about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in elementary school, but I didn't really learn about Dr. King and America's recent history until I went to college." With so few young Americans able to attend college, it is dangerous for us to leave the education of our young to a very selective memory of the past two decades.

As you may know, the Commission and the U.S. Student Association joined for the past two years in cosponsoring the National College and University Student Conference as a part of the holiday activities in Atlanta, GA. This conference has served as a tremendous educational tool for all the students who attended, but also to those of us who sponsored the conference. We learned how much more there is to do. We learned how few young Americans really understood what Dr. King stood for and what he accomplished.

The work of the Commission is not over. We must continue to find new and better ways to communicate the history of Dr. King and his part in the civil rights movement, and to help young Americans understand this new holiday and everything for which it

stands. This is the role the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Commission has played and what it should continue to play.

Secondly, the extension of the Commission's life is not just an issue of the necessary education our country must undergo, but it is also a moral issue. Dr. King is one of the few Americans of color that we as a country have recognized, though there have been so many instrumental in bringing us to where we are today. His and the movement's vision of equality and social justice transformed our Nation. To many, Dr. King is a symbol of hope and success.

We must not let this be forgotten. We have so far to go to do justice to the communities of color in our Nation, and though the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission is just a step, it is an extremely important one. Let us not give up now on something that has just begun. I say again, the work of the Commission is not done. Insure that it will not die unfinished.

Finally, I wish to speak to a very important section of this proposed bill which others have spoken to, that is, the authorization of $300,000 per fiscal year to the Commission to carry out its work. While the Commission has done a tremendous job during its lifetime, it has been limited due to the lack of funds. Authorizing funding for the Commission is not only a long overdue measure, but also a necessary one. For the Commission to fully achieve our stated missions, we must have adequate funding.

I thank you again, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for allowing me to address you today.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much.

Mr. Williams.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS R. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT, WALES GROUP, AND CHAIRMAN, GEORGIA HOLIDAY COMMISSION

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am pleased to be here to urge permanent status for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission.

Like Dr. King, I'm a native of Atlanta. While I'm appearing here today as chairperson of the Georgia Commission appointed to commemorate Dr. King's birthday, I think it's important for me to note that I'm also a businessman, and I am president of The Wales Group, an investment company I founded upon retirement as chairman of First Wachovia Corporation, a large regional bank holding company, and as chairman of The First National Bank of Atlanta, one of its two lead banks.

I would like to point out, because it gives me pride, that Georgia is one of the 44 States that have established an official and full-fledged holiday to honor Dr. King. Governor Joe Frank Harris and other State officials have been enthusiastic in support of an official holiday in memory of Dr. King, and in Atlanta we have had a series of outstanding events surrounding the observance of Dr. King's birthday.

I think I am safe in saying that most Georgians and most Atlantans support an official holiday nationwide to commemorate Dr. King and his many accomplishments.

In honoring Dr. King, we honor not only a man but we honor a movement. It was a movement that achieved historic, significant,

and long-lasting goals through nonviolent means. It was a movement that transformed the United States and, in a broad sense, the whole world. History will say that the civil rights movement led by Dr. King was revolutionary. But history will point out, I'm sure, that it was a revolution that achieved its goals without violence.

In my view, a nonviolent movement on such a sweeping scale could not have succeeded anywhere else in the world. And I can add that the world shares in the legacy of that movement.

The civil rights movement led by Dr. King reminded all Americans of our fundamental commitment to freedom and to justice. The movement underscored the importance of these values for the whole world.

Therefore, I think it is appropriate and beneficial to have a day set aside officially, each year, to remember Dr. King, the civil rights movement, and the values that they reinforced for all Americans and for people everywhere.

We need a Federal Commission, adequately funded, to coordinate this observance and to keep attention focused on the philosophy and teachings of Dr. King and his movement.

Quite fittingly, my city of Atlanta is the centerpiece for the celebration of Dr. King's memory. I feel certain that most Atlantans, most Georgians, and most Americans, share my belief that a permanent commission is both desirable and necessary.

Dr. King and his movement touched Americans of all races, all backgrounds, all ages, and all conditions. Indeed, it touched—and it continues to touch—the people of virtually every nation. Therefore, I hope, Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, that Congress will adopt and the President will sign the proposed legislation to make the King Federal Holiday Commission a permanent body, so that we will have its guidance and its services available on a permanent basis.

Thank you very much for the privilege of being here.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much, Mr. Williams.

Mrs. Morella.

Mrs. MORELLA. First of all, I am very pleased to note that Mr. Wick inspired the extension of the Commission from '86 to '89, and so that portends well also to confirm what you have said about how important it is internationally to us in terms of our image. Did you want to comment on that?

Dr. BLITZ. I think that's right. It really is important internationally, precisely in terms of letting people see a side of the United States that they often don't see.

Mrs. MORELLA. In looking through the makeup of the Commission, I notice the terms are only one year. It seems to me that it takes one year to get involved in what's going on. I know you could be reappointed, but I'm curious about your opinion on whether one year is adequate. Maybe it should be a two-year term.

Mr. DYMALLY. It would seem to me that would be the subject of an appropriate amendment. You're absolutely right.

I serve at the request of the Speaker—it's a sort of courtesy extended to the Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus—but I think I'm there for two years. I would not have even got to know the Commission members had I just been there for one year. So that might be something we would want to discuss with the Com-

mission, to see if in the course of putting this bill together next week we might want to extend the membership to two years.

Mrs. MORELLA. I thank the panel for coming.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much, indeed.

Our next panel is Reverend Deats, Mr. Hall, and Ms. Leahy.

Mrs. Morella, I have a slight problem. I have to leave here in the next 15 or 20 minutes and then adjourn and come back and take Mrs. King as the last witness. I have a conference which I must attend, but I will not be there for the duration. I'll just open it and come right back. So I shall have to adjourn in about 20 minutes.

Reverend Deats.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD DEATS, DIRECTOR OF INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES, FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION, NYACK, NY

Rev. DEATS. Chairman Dymally and members of the subcommittee, when I was a young man growing up in Texas, my State and the other States of the south were segregated throughout. Theaters, schools, churches, sports, clubs, all were segregated by race. Segregation was an accepted way of life, despite the fact that it contradicted the very basis of our democracy as well as our Judaeo-Christian heritage which both proclaim that all are created equal.

My generation was challenged to end this contradiction and to truly build a society no longer divided by racist assumptions. It was Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement that he led which provided that challenge and inspired and ennobled a whole nation to end the long night of segregation and to fulfill the American dream.

In the process we began to dream our own dreams, as we heard Martin Luther King tell of his dream and as we witnessed him ready to march, to go to jail, and even to go to an early grave so that we might be a nation of liberty and justice for all. Because of his example, we, step-by-step, raised our vision so that we were not just struggling against racism but we were struggling to bring to realization the full scope of the democratic promise that liberty and justice are meant to be realized not just for a few, not just for some, but for all.

While great strides have been made in building a society where liberty and justice prevail, we all know that we fall far short of the potential this rich and diverse nation possesses. We need to be challenged anew to struggle against all odds and to fight, whatever the cost, to, in the words of Martin King, "speed up that day when all of God's children, black and white, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual 'Free at least, free at last, thank God Almighty, we're free at last.'"

Such a bold dream continues to inspire this Nation, and it has been given validation and affirmation through the proclamation of Martin Luther King's birthday as a national holiday. But the highest validation and the boldest affirmation need to have some organizational framework if they are to have growing significance and deep meaning. And that is precisely what the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission is so important and why its per-

manence is so essential, as is the funding to make that permanence significant.

In only a few short years we have seen growing national recognition and observance of Dr. King's birthday, from statehouse to courthouse, from school to church and synagogue. Much of this has been a natural response of a grateful nation to the memory and legacy of Dr. King. But this has had an undergirding and support from the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission that must not be overlooked. A dedicated and hard-working commission staff and far-flung activities undertaken with the support of numerous volunteer committees and individuals have, step by step, broadened and deepened the national King birthday events.

For these developments to continue in any kind of meaningful and systematic way, the Federal Holiday Commission will need to continue. An examination of its record, as it's enclosed in its annual reports, demonstrates why. The Commission has been a national hub to stimulate, to provide ideas and resources, to provide assistance and guidance for these activities. It has provided a center for systematically assisting such activities on the national, State and local level, not to mention the growing international recognition as well.

All this has been accomplished with the slenderest of budgets, raised from volunteer contributions. A lean staff, with a nationwide program, should not be required, in carrying out a national mandate, to raise a budget as well. Nor is it seemly that so much of these efforts should rest upon the untiring and heroic dedication of Coretta Scott King. While she will continue her dedication to ensuring that Dr. King's dream is embodied in the life of the Republic, finding funds for the Federal Holiday Commission should not be expected of her as well.

While I realize the tight budgetary restrictions facing Congress, a budget appropriation for the Federal Holiday Commission is necessary and only a small amount, especially when compared, for example, with the recent revelations of massive fraud and waste at the Pentagon. These squandered billions have been spent in the name of "defense". But I would submit that the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr., is a shield that defends the American people and the American way of life from the onslaught of cynicism, complacency, greed and indifference and, as such, is of incalculable worth. Because he lived, Dr. King helps us to believe in ourselves and our values, and this "us" includes all our minorities who have often felt left out of the American dream.

In the words of William J. Bennett, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, "Just as James Madison, with Thomas Jefferson, became the greatest exponent of the American dream in the 18th century, just as Abraham Lincoln became the greatest representative of that dream in the 19th century, so Martin Luther King became its greatest advocate in recent times. All of us need to remember this; our children need to learn this."

At the place where Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, there is a plaque with a quotation from the Joseph story in the Bible. It reads: "Here comes the dreamer. Let us kill him and see what becomes of his dream." Our Nation has chosen to honor this noble dreamer. It is up to us to see what will become of his dream.

Thank you very much.
Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much.
Miss Leahy.

STATEMENT OF MARY LEAHY, VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Ms. LEAHY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today representing Sister Catherine McNamee, President of the National Catholic Educational Association and Co-Chair of the Education Committee on the Commission, in support of a permanent Commission on the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday. Sister Catherine is attending an international conference on higher education in Jakarta, so I will offer her testimony.

As Co-Chair of the Education Committee of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission, I strongly urge support of H.R. 4443 that would make this Commission permanent and authorize an appropriation of $300,000 for each fiscal year to carry out its activities. The Commission performs a vital congressionally recognized service to promulgate the teachings of Dr. King by coordinating special commemorative events in the 50 States and in more than 140 nations around the globe.

The Commission is instrumental in instructing our young people on the importance of educational excellence, of community service, and of peace and justice in our contemporary global society. In the past two years significant progress has been made in supporting efforts to formalize such instruction and curriculum in all American schools, both private and public. The Commission's Education Committee has responded to thousands of requests from school districts, principals and classroom teachers for "Learn-a-bration" packets containing literature, information, and bibliographies on Dr. King and his important philosopohy of nonviolence. Many of these schools, both public and private, have conducted special teach-ins each year during the week of the national holiday.

In 1987, an invitational symposium was held for chief state school officers and other educational leaders. Building upon the success of that event, the Education Committee has planned a major educational conference on model programs and projects for September, 1988. The wide variety of models to be featured include those designed to impact upon poverty, racism and war; all forms of violence against persons or groups; the problems of drug abuse, illiteracy and underemployment; discrimination in America and apartheid in South Africa. Schools are also being encouraged to develop opportunities for students to explore creative efforts to promote peace and peacekeeping in the international community, as well as to participate in local service programs to help the elderly, the handicapped and physically challenged, the homeless, the hungry and other disadvantaged groups in our society.

This Commission has achieved some success with minimal private donations and a variety of fundraising activities, but it is operating under considerable fiscal strain. A Federal appropriation will enable the Commission and its committees to devote their time to carrying out their important national mission, one which will have

a lasting impact not only upon this Nation but upon the entire world.

Thank you.

Mr. DYMALLY. Thank you very much.

Before Mr. Hall begins his testimony, I want to enter into the record the testimony of the National Education Association, Miss Mary Hatwood Futrell, the President.

[The statement of the National Education Association follows:]

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

STATEMENT

OF THE

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ON

THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FEDERAL HOLIDAY COMMISSION

H.R. 4443

FOR THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CENSUS AND POPULATION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 1988

MARY HATWOOD FUTRELL, President • KEITH GEIGER, Vice President • ROXANNE E. BRADSHAW, Secretary-Treasurer
DON CAMERON, Executive Director
(202) 822-7300

Mr. Chairman,

The National Education Association appreciates this opportunity to support legislation to permanently authorize the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. The NEA membership of 1.9 million education employees believes strongly in the dream Dr. King spoke of in his now famous I Have a Dream speech of August 28, 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Today, this nation takes pride in its ideals of freedom, justice, and equality of opportunity. America has made considerable progress during the last 25 years, but we have yet to bring the Dream to reality.

NEA believes Dr. King's vision of this nation and the world is still worthy of our best efforts to bring his Dream to fruition. Our members have chosen the public schools as the arena in which to make the Dream a reality. They devote each school day to helping move students toward academic excellence. Although they are often plagued by inadequate resources, they are emboldened by the knowledge that they can make a difference in the lives of their students. With this hope, they grapple with such formidable forces as illiteracy, apathy, and despair. Because of Dr. King's example, we are better prepared to help make the public schools a place where equality of opportunity and academic excellence abound.

NEA's Commitment to the Dream

NEA has a rich history of civil rights advocacy that spans more than a half century, and was one of the first organizations

to call for Congressional action to establish a federal holiday in honor of Dr. King. NEA members reaffirmed this call each year until 1983 when legislation was enacted to establish a holiday for Dr. King. Today, NEA remains committed to commemorating his life and teachings. Our members continue to work with NEA state and local affiliates for passage of legislation in states that have not established a holiday to honor Dr. King.

When the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission was created, NEA established a relationship with that body which has kept us intricately involved in the Commission's efforts to keep the Dream alive. NEA President Mary Futrell serves as a member of the King Holiday Commission and is co-chair and convenor of the Education Committee of the Commission. NEA has provided financial assistance, developed fundraising and commemorative projects, and produced publications on Dr. King and his efforts to promote civil rights and to make the schools a place where all children have the opportunity for a quality education.

The Commission's Mandate

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission was authorized by the U.S. Congress in August 1984. Congress commissioned it to encourage appropriate ceremonies and activities to observe Dr. King's birthday, and to advise and assist federal, state, and local governments and private organizations in ways to commemorate Dr. King's life and work. With limited resources during the first four years of operation,

the Commission aggressively forged ahead in carrying out its mandate. With that same high level of commitment and purpose, the Commission currently:

- coordinates appropriate commemorative events in the 50 states and territories, at all U.S. installations, and in more than 140 nations around the world;

- encourages states and localities to enact Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday legislation and provides technical assistance as required;

- establishes and distributes criteria by which to evaluate annual King holiday observances;

- establishes national themes and holiday symbols;

- designates endorsed memorabilia for public sale;

- designates and schedules appropriate ceremonies and activities throughout the country in cooperation with state and local King holiday commissions;

- develops and distributes standards for honoring Dr. King in cooperation with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change;

4.

- collaborates on the development, publication, and distribution of information and mateials on Dr. King and the national holiday;

- conducts educational training conferences to acquaint teachers with Martin Luther King, Jr. curricula and resource materials; and

- participates in projects involving issues of national concern such as adolescent pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, illiteracy, urban economic development, child abuse, family violence, job counseling and placement, and voter registration.

The work of the Education Committee of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission calls for special recognition. The Committee comprises presidents and executive directors of 23 major organizations, including NEA President Mary Futrell. The Education Committee compiles, updates, and distributes packets of educational resource materials and suggestions for activities to commemorate the life and teachings of Dr. King. The Education Committee also sends educational materials and information to chief state school officers and educational associations. A major educational activity of the Committee was the development and sale of the ''Freedom Trail'' map with suggestions for community and school activity to celebrate the King holiday.

5.

Permanent Extension and Funding of Holiday Commission

The U.S. Congress has directed the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission to ''institutionalize'' the federal holiday honoring Dr. King. This is a considerable mandate, given that the Commission's authority will expire on April 20, 1989. While Congress has wisely extended the life of the Commission once since its initial authorization, it has never appropriated funds to assist the Commission in carrying out its mandate. NEA believes it is virtually impossible for the Commission to accomplish its mandate without federal financial assistance. For this reason, NEA strongly supports legislation (H.R. 4443) pending in Congress to provide the Commission permanent authority and a $300,000 appropriation each fiscal year.

During its four-year existence, the Commission has relied solely on private donations and fundraising activities to finance its operations. Its expenditure of energy and focus on raising money for operating expenses has diminished its potential productivity. Without adequate funding, the Commission has been unable to hire full-time staff or assist Commissioners with travel expenses and other costs associated with their attending official meetings and other functions. Currently, the Commission is operating under a considerable deficit which private contributions will never eradicate. Federal funding will enable the Commission to devote all its efforts to fulfilling its Congressional mandate.

Conclusion

NEA believes Dr. King's legacy to the world must remain a vital part of our conscious memory. We must never forget the price he and others paid to secure the freedoms we enjoy today. Equal educational opportunity did not exist 25 years ago. Dr. King made that one of the chief cornerstones of his Dream. Discrimination based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion and disability were the norm 25 years ago. Today, they are outlawed. While some may argue that the viable, visible civil rights movement languished after Dr. King's death, today we can find potent evidence throughout the world that the struggle for the Dream lives on.

Each success we achieve in the struggle to bring Dr. King's Dream to fruition gives us hope. The beauty of his Dream has been embraced by Americans of every ethnic and cultural group. The hope of the Dream is that we learn to tolerate our differences. The challenge of the Dream is that we learn to celebrate those differences. Enactment of H.R. 4443 will enable the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission to keep the Dream alive. With permanent authorization and federal funding, the Commission can fuel the flame of hope that will usher in the reality of Dr. King's Dream.

Mr. DYMALLY. Mr. Hall, you may proceed.

STATEMENT OF ELLIOTT S. HALL, VICE PRESIDENT, WASHINGTON AFFAIRS, FORD MOTOR CO.

Mr. HALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Elliott Hall, Vice President, Washington Affairs, for Ford Motor Company. I welcome this chance to appear before your subcommittee in support of legislation to make permanent the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission.

America these days has need of heroes. Dr. King is, and should be honored as, an authentic American hero. His life, death and lasting legacy have earned him an honored place in the pantheon of such martyred men of principle as Ghandi and Abraham Lincoln.

Positive legislative action by the Congress on H.R. 4443 will help to safeguard and perpetuate Dr. King's place and influence in American life and American history.

Twenty-five years ago Dr. King observed that "this great Nation of ours is in the midst of a social revolution." Today, a quarter of a century later, it is still an unfinished revolution. Ford Motor Company and tens of thousands of its employees have caught the sparks from Dr. King's message.

Earlier this year, Ford Chairman Donald E. Petersen presided over the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., "Salute to Greatness" dinner in Atlanta. On that occasion, Mr. Petersen reminded his audience that the "true measure of a person's greatness" is the amount of inspiration and the level of aspiration left behind as a legacy for others; particularly young people.

Mr. Petersen noted that it would be wonderful to be able to report that Dr. King's life and death have already fulfilled their promise. But, as he added, "a glance at our morning newspapers or the evening TV news tells us we are still far from that great day."

There is no doubt that the quality of life has improved for some since Dr. King's death. But millions of other Americans, with their noses pressed to the window, are only looking in but still not sharing in the economic benefits and developmental opportunities of the American dream. As a result, "Freedom Now," the rallying cry of the civil rights movement in the Sixties, is being increasingly replaced by long overdue demands for "inclusion," "widening the circle," and "sharing the American pie."

Today, and certainly through November 8—election day—we're certain to hear a lot about social justice, equal rights and fair play. Our challenge as Americans is to make sure the spotlight of public opinion and legislative pressures remains focused squarely on the problems of disadvantage, injustice, and exclusion after the voting is over.

Admittedly, Ford is only one American company, albeit a large and successful one. But we believe strongly in the timeless values of human dignity, mutual respect, and equal opportunity for which Dr. King stood. That is why I urge the Congress and, indeed, all of America, not to underestimate the high place of importance that the memory and inspiration of Dr. King enjoys today in the lives of millions of Americans.

The enactment of permanent status for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission will encourage and be welcomed, not only by black Americans, but by all Americans who have discovered the gap and experienced the disparity between the shining promise of the American dream and its hard-edged daily reality.

Because of its symbolic, historical and inspirational role, once established on a permanent basis, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission will be a national reminder of things undone and promises made but not yet kept.

The Commission can be a symbol of the renewal of America's conscience as well as the continuity of our obligation to keep moving towards a nation "with liberty and justice for all." Increasingly, the Commission can become a landmark among our national institutions, a lasting testament to an American citizen of the world named King, and a memorial to his dream of brotherhood, justice and peace.

To memorialize Dr. King's spirit and achievement through assured continuance of this Commission will send an important and heartening message, not only to black America, but to every one of the 245 million citizens in our country. I need hardly remind the members of this committee that not to review this mandate of national conscience could have dire results. Such an action could give heart to bigots, destroy the continuing momentum of interracial progress, and encourage those who believe that equality has already gone too far in America.

To honor Martin Luther King through perpetuation of this Commission is to honor the reality and possibility of the American dream. It will set in place for the future a small but shining niche in official Washington to remind young Americans that anyone with values, concern and courage—no matter what their skin color, religious belief or ethnic origin—can make a difference. It will give heart to young people in need of role models in a society often beset by the three V's of vice, violence and venality.

We can continue to observe holidays, erect statues, and establish scholarships in Martin Luther King's name. But the greatest and most lasting tribute we can build to his memory will be an America of fulfillment and justice for all of our citizens, without exception. I believe that by perpetuating this Commission, you will provide a strong and certain rock on which we will build a bright beacon light to guide us and remind us of Dr. King's sacrifice and his still-unfulfilled dream.

I urge your support and commend the subcommittee for this timely endeavor. Thank you.

Mr. DYMALLY. We thank the witnesses for their testimony and would like to reserve the option of submitting some questions to you in writing for the record. Thank you very much.

The committee is in recess pending the arrival of Mrs. King, so we will be on call.

[Whereupon, the subcommittee was in recess.]

Mr. DYMALLY. The meeting of the Subcommittee on Census and Population is hereby reconvened.

Our final witness is Mrs. Coretta King, who is Chair of the Commission. Mrs. King, welcome. We are very pleased to have your testimony.

You may proceed.

STATEMENT OF CORETTA SCOTT KING, CHAIRPERSON, THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FEDERAL HOLIDAY COMMISSION; PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CENTER FOR NONVIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE, INC.

Mrs. KING. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of this subcommittee. I am grateful for this opportunity to appear before you in support of House bill 4443, which will permanently establish the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission and provide it with an annual appropriation.

The U.S. Congress established the Federal Holiday Commission in 1984, and the legislation was signed into law by President Reagan on August 27, 1984. The legislation set forth a series of tasks to be performed by the Commission: to encourage appropriate ceremonies and activities throughout the United States relating to the first observance of the Federal holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.; to provide advice and assistance to Federal, State, and local governments and to private organizations with respect to the observance of the holiday; to coordinate efforts with Americans of diverse backgrounds and with private organizations in the observance of the Federal holiday and most importantly, to use the holiday as a time for Americans to reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change as espoused by Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Congress placed an enormous responsibility upon the Commission but gave it no funds. It authorized full-time paid staff, but gave it no funds. It authorized per diem and travel support for Commissioners, especially those who would be without the financial means to assume such expenses, but it provided no funds. It mandated that we create the guidelines and standards to properly and appropriately observe the new holiday, but it provided no funds. The Congress mandated we establish the themes and images which would uniquely identify the holiday as something different, something meaningful, something American but also universal in its appeal, but it provided no funds.

The Congress expected the Commission to use Dr. King's holiday as a special time to reach young people, especially those faced with the violence of drugs, teenage pregnancy, school dropouts, illiteracy, unemployment, isolation, loneliness, loss of purpose, feelings of inadequacy and of being excluded. The Congress, and even the President of the United States, wanted the national holiday to be an opportunity to help young people restore meaning to their lives, to feel proud of their heritage, to do justice, to love mercy, to walk humbly with their God, to strive for moral and intellectual excellence, pursue greatness through service to their families, their communities and their nation, but the Congress provided no funds.

Secretary of Education William J. Bennett has stated that Dr. King's story should be prominent in the course of the civic and moral education of our children, that his story must become theirs. Secretary Bennett pleaded that, "we need to see Martin Luther King, Jr., as a thinker, as a political philosopher, whose teaching

continues as it extends and deepens our most important political principles."

The Congress framed the legislation establishing the Federal Commission to assure that the holiday in honor of Dr. King would not produce simply another three-day weekend but that it would be the most ambitious and demanding national holiday in the history of America: a time to remember, a time to celebrate, but most importantly, a time to act, to actively get involved individually and collectively in continuing Dr. King's nonviolent agenda and his pursuit of the beloved community.

When we observed the first holiday in 1986, many feared that it would be viewed as a black holiday and simply a day off for whites and others. Others feared that the national holiday would cast Dr. King as a dreamer whose dreams had already become a reality and, therefore, there was no need to continue his work, his struggle, his direct action for nonviolent social change, and his pursuit of nonviolence as a way of life which could impact upon the totality of the human experience without regard for race, culture, economics, community or even nation.

Charles Wick, Director of the U.S. Information Agency, and a member of the Federal Commission, cautioned that the King holiday's institutionalization would span many years, that it would not be accomplished in 1 year, or even 7 years. Director Wick encouraged us to request that the Congress extend the expiration date of the Commission from April 20, 1986 to at least April 20, 1989.

Mr. Chairman, we were proud that the Congressional Black Caucus presented the Federal Holiday Commission with a very special award for its efforts to institutionalize the holiday and to provide it with substance and meaning. Those of you who have had the opportunity to read the 1988 report to the President and the Congress on the results of the third national holiday can see how far we have come, from a concept to a reality, from a mere remembrance and celebration to a time for action. The holiday has become a time for individual citizens and peoples around the world to get involved with doing something about ending poverty, racism and apartheid, unemployment and underemployment, about ending war and pursuing peace with justice, about protecting and extending our freedoms, about achieving equality for all, about ending all forms of violence.

In 1985, when we were preparing for the first national holiday, only 17 States had enacted some form of legislation recognizing the national holiday and Dr. King's birthday anniversary. Today, 44 States have officially established the holiday, so have all of the U.S. territories. This American holiday is observed in some manner by more than 140 nations around the world. We now see developing across the Nation and around the world a national holiday movement which is bringing new supporters to the philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr., In its April, 1988 edition, Rolling Stone Magazine described Martin Luther King, Jr., as a "hero to a generation and the leader most respected and honored by Americans 18 to 40 years of age."

We are seeing this national holiday movement increasingly involve millions more blacks, whites, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, women and men, old and young, rich and poor, labor

and Government at all levels, artists, athletes, the disabled, the disadvantaged, the religious faithful—literally all of America and most of the world.

We have done, though far from completed, what we had to do, we have struggled to carry out your mandate without funds, without resources, with much pain and sacrifice. What a challenge—what an opportunity—if only we had the funds to truly make the national holiday a reflection of the greatness of the ideals and principles of Martin Luther King, Jr. If only we had the funds to nurture the national holiday further in the hearts of Americans, into what it is already evolving—a year-around opportunity for all peoples and groups to lift up Dr. King's vision and to become peacemakers and reconcilers and eventually drum majors for justice.

In 1986, millions of Americans signed pledge cards in honor of the national holiday, "to love and not hate, to show understanding, not anger, to make peace and not war." In 1988, thousands of Americans had their names laser inscribed on a miniature Liberty Bell which was placed in the Martin Luther King, Jr. time capsule and implanted in the Nation's Capital. These Americans wanted generations yet unborn to know that they embraced Dr. King's teachings and tried to follow in his footsteps.

The legislation establishing the Federal Commission requires that it exist through private donations, but this has been difficult. Many see the Commission as only temporary and are hesitant to endow the national holiday or to make the Commission financially whole. Our business community by and large still maintains a wait and see attitude toward the holiday and, therefore, renders it very little financial or other assistance. So much of our time with the Federal Commission is spent simply existing while trying desperately to meet the requests for assistance from millions of people.

What we ask from the Congress is so very little compared with other demands on the Federal Treasury and the taxpayer. What we ask from the Congress is so very little compared to the appropriations provided for other Federal commissions whose legislative mandate was far less than that of the King Holiday Commission.

Back in 1986, during the first observance of the national holiday, I stated then that, "As a nation chooses its heroes and heroines, it interprets its history and destiny. The annual King holiday can help America realize its true destiny as the global model for democracy, for economic and social justice."

I ask the Congress which gave birth to the national holiday—which gave birth to this Federal Commission—to help us continue our work, to give us the means and encouragement to complete the job we have just started. This holiday, if properly appreciated and supported, can be a remarkable American event, one in which all Americans can take justifiable pride. It can embody the true spirit of American ideals, patriotism, and those founding precepts which Martin Luther King, Jr. stirred and revived in the souls of a nation and freedom loving people throughout the world.

Thank you.

Mr. DYMALLY. Mrs. King, I regret to tell you that we have a buzzer on for a vote on the floor, and it's not just a general vote. It's a substantive vote.

I just want to pose two issues to you—and you don't have to respond now. You can respond through staff. First, I'm thinking of increasing, when the bill comes up for markup, the authorization appropriation to half-a-million dollars, because I think $300,000 is inadequate.

Second, I understand some of the members have 1-year terms. What about 2 years? Think about it and let us know through staff. There is a feeling that, as soon as you begin to get to know the members, you're off the Commission. You might want to think about a 2-year term instead of a 1-year term. You don't have to respond now.

Mrs. Morella.

Mrs. MORELLA. Instead of asking questions, I just want to thank you for your appearance here today, and for also sending us the telegram in advance to alert us to the fact that this is significant legislation, and the fact that you have continued to symbolize all that Martin Luther King, Jr. stood for in so many ways. So it is nice to see you again. I appreciate your being here.

Mr. DYMALLY. In conclusion, Mrs. King, we want a picture with you.

The meeting is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:10 p.m., the subcommittee adjourned.]

[The following statement was received for the record:]

Written Testimony of Rep. Jack Kemp
Submitted to the Post Office & Civil Service Committee
Subcommittee on Census and Population
August 2, 1988

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony to express my strong support for making the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission permanent. I was an original sponsor of legislation introduced in the 99th Congress to make the Commission permanent; once again I strongly endorse this effort. It is an honor for me to serve on the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Commission, particularly with Coretta Scott King. Mrs. King has nobly advanced the cause of her late husband, and deserves our full support, admiration and heartfelt thanks.

The Commission performs a vital role in firmly establishing the traditions of celebrating Dr. King's birthday, and in keeping alive Dr. King's dream for America. The Commission needs additional time and money to carry out its mandate.

In 1984, when President Reagan signed the legislation that made the third Monday in January a legal holiday to honor Dr. King's birthday, very few states were willing to enforce its observance. Through the hard work of the members of the Commission, in all but seven states, people of all races, political persuasions, and cultures come together in the same spirit of fellowship that symbolized Dr. King's life.

The vision of Martin Luther King, Jr. transformed this country and energized social justice movements around the globe.

This holiday we celebrate continues to bring people together who believe that this country cannot reach the fulfillment of the American dream until all men and women are free, until all have full civil rights, and until all people are judged not on the color of their skin but on the content of their character. The civil rights community both in this country and worldwide needs continued coordinated guidance to extend the international celebration of Dr. King's legacy.

The organization that is best able to spread his true legacy and to prevent the distortion of his message is the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. The Commission has proven its ability to carry out its mandate: it has coordinated commemorative events in the 50 states and more than 140 nations around the world; it responds to the thousands of requests from the public for literature, information, speakers, and direct program assistance on the holiday; and finally, the Commission can establish the standards and guidelines for properly observing the National Holiday and work with the public and private institutions and organizations in their implementation of activities to commemorate the holiday.

Consistent with the teachings of Dr. King, the Commission participates in projects addressing issues of national concern such as teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuses, literacy, urban economic development, child abuse, family violence, job placement and counseling and voter registration. Dr. King loved America, the way all real patriots do - - not because it has reached perfection, but because in a free society we can work together peacefully and nonviolently to improve it. With a permanent appropriation, the Commission will be successful in helping our children to "Live the Dream" of Dr. King.

Dr. King, of course, is the first black American to be honored as an American hero, not simply a great leader of blacks. He seemed to wake us up to something true in ourselves, the idea that justice, to be right, must be colorblind. As Dr. King wrote, "Injustice is a threat to justice everywhere."

The challenge remains for us to complete the work that he began. The celebration of his birthday serves as an annual reminder of the task that lies before us. Two decades after Dr. King was assassinated, we have the chance to offer something in return to this man who gave us all so much.

The Commission serves as a focal point uniting Americans around one idea, his idea that the greatest resource this country has is our people with their enormous spiritual, intellectual, and physical potential.

We need great leadership to move us toward genuine social reform and real progress. The Commission with its distinguished membership can show us by their actions how much potential people have. Dr. King's life of leadership opened the way for all Americans to expand their potential and the Commission can continue to spread his work.

Congress has seen fit twice before to extend the life of the Commission, clearly expressing its support for the Commission's work. Congress should continue to honor the work of Dr. King by making permanent the Martin Luther King Commission and providing an appropriation for its work.